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NOTE VERBALE DATED 2 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to it herewith a letter dated 1 February 1991 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, concerning the crimes that are being committed by the forces of the United States, NATO and Zionist alliance against the economic, cultural, scientific and religious institutions of the Iraqi people.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq requests the circulation of this note and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 1 February 1991 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

On 24 January 1991, I wrote you a letter to inform you that, since the commencement of their aggression at 2.30 p.m. on 17 January 1991, the forces of the United States, NATO and Zionist alliance have been committing heinous and premeditated crimes against Iraqi citizens and against the economic, cultural, scientific and religious institutions of the Iraqi people.

In that letter I presented a long list of tangible facts concerning such crimes committed in the period from 17 to 21 January. Those facts were subsequently confirmed and reported by neutral press agencies, and were widely discussed in political and media circles throughout the world.

We find it strange that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has not expressed his view in this regard, as expected not only by the Iraqi people but by all just and free persons throughout the world, who regard the United Nations as an institution whose purpose is to defend human values. Instead, you have remained silent concerning these crimes which, for the first time in history, are being committed in the name of the United Nations and under the cloak of groundless and unjust Security Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 678 (1990). The whole world is aware that those resolutions were adopted as a result of pressure, blackmail and bribery by the United States and its allies, thereby bringing shame on the Security Council, the United Nations and the countries which received bribes and yielded to United States pressure and blackmail. Your silence in the face of these crimes will merely increase the shame of the United Nations, which is now being used by the imperialist Powers to subjugate peoples, muffle their free and independent voice, impose full control over oil and perpetuate Israeli hegemony over the region. Indeed, the very goals that the United Nations is supposed to embody are being violated before the eyes and with the knowledge of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who utters not a word. Numerous free voices have denounced the crimes that are being committed against the people of Iraq, and officials of some countries participating in the aggression have protested against it and have declared that what is happening far exceeds the intended purpose of the resolutions adopted in the name of the United Nations, notwithstanding the fact that those resolutions are groundless and unjust. However, you still remain silent.

In this letter I am presenting further facts concerning the crimes that are being committed against the Iraqi people and which took place after the date of my first letter. It is a record for history, and the judgement of history is harsh and merciless.

Baghdad governorate

I. 26 January 1991.

Air bombardment in which five citizens were wounded, one of whom subsequently died.

II. 28 January 1991.

1. An air raid on residential areas in which 10 citizens were wounded.

2. Bombardment of the Radio and Television Building, in which two citizens were wounded.

III. 29 January 1991.

Bombardment of Al-Jumhouriya Bridge in Baghdad.

IV. 30 January 1991.

1. An air raid on the Central Bank, which suffered damage and in which two citizens were wounded.

2. Missile attack on the Ministry of Justice.

Salah al-Din governorate

I. 23 January 1991.

1. Time-fuse bombs were dropped on agricultural areas in the district of Balad, as a result of which one citizen was killed and two others were wounded.

2. 25 January 1991.

Air raid on residential areas on the Baghdad-Nineveh road and on Qadisiya quarter and the village of Arbida in the subdistrict of al-Alam, as a result of which five citizens were killed and nine others wounded.

Anbar governorate

I. 21 January 1991.

Bombardment of a desert area in Kebisa district, as a result of which three citizens were killed and one wounded.

II. 23 January 1991.

1. A missile fell on a house in the district of Abu Ghurayb.

2. A missile fell on al-Furat village in the district of Hit and another fell in the al-Boukamal area in the subdistrict of al-Karmah. Seven cluster bomb canisters were dropped in the district of al-Rutbah.

III. 26 January 1991.

An air raid on al-Ramadi city and the districts of al-Qaim, al-Rutbah, Haditha and Hit killed eight citizens and wounded seven others.

IV. 22 January 1991.

An air raid on al-Nakhib subdistrict killed four citizens and wounded one woman.

V. 26 January 1991.

Bombardment of the Qadisiya Irrigation Dam, which was damaged.

VI. 27 January 1991.

Air raids on al-Ramadi city including al-Ramadi city centre and the districts of al-Rutbah, al-Qaim, Haditha, Hit and the subdistrict of al-Ameriya, in which two citizens were killed and another wounded.

VII. 28-29 January 1991.

1. Air raids on al-Ramadi city centre and the districts of al-Rutbah, al-Qaim, Haditha, Hit and the subdistricts of al-Ameriya and Kebisa.

2. Air raids on 28 January 1991 on the highway between al-Qaim and Akashat, in which four Jordanians were killed and seven persons wounded, including two Jordanians and one person from Thailand.

VIII. 30 January 1991.

1. Bombardment of the al-Kindi Company for Medical Vaccines, the subdistricts of al-Nasr and al-Salam in Abu Ghurayb district and a Customs office, in which one citizen was wounded.

Dhi Qar governorate

22 January 1991.

Two citizens were wounded by a missile fired from an enemy aircraft.

Najaf governorate

23 January 1991.

Bombardment of residential areas at Najaf, Kufa and al-Manadhira.

Basra governorate

20 January 1991.

Bombardment of al-Najibiya residential area, in which 15 citizens were killed, 19 others wounded and 19 residential buildings destroyed. Four occupants of those buildings were wounded and two shops and a civilian vehicle were damaged.

Ta'mim governorate

20-25 January 1991.

An air raid on densely populated residential areas at Imam Qasim, al-Andalus, Azadi, Arafa and Bey Hasan quarters and al-Dibs district resulted in the death of 15 citizens, including 12 children and 2 women. Six citizens, including four children and a woman, were wounded.

Babil governorate

I. 23 January 1991.

1. Four missiles fired at the residential areas of the modern village in the subdistrict of Iskandariya killed 20 citizens and wounded 25 others.

2. Bombardment of residential areas in the district of al-Mahmoudiya killed three citizens and wounded four others.

II. 24 January 1991.

Two air raids on the Musayyib district, targeting residential areas at Jurf al-Sakhr, resulted in the death of two civilians.

III. 26-27 January 1991.

An air raid on the principal city in the governorate and on the districts of Musayyib and Hashimiya and the subsdistrict of Iskandariya killed eight citizens and wounded 36 others in the principal city of the governorate.

Karbala governorate

25 January 1991.

Bombardment of Karbala Cement Plant.

Arbil governorate

I. 24 January 1991.

Bombardment of houses in the principal city of Arbil governorate killed two citizens and wounded 20 others, including seven women and four children.

II. 26 January 1991.

Bombardment of residential areas in the Basterma area of Harir subdistrict resulting in the death of 13 citizens, including eight women, four children, and wounded 85 other citizens.

Wasit governorate

24-25 January 1991.

An air raid on the al-Badriya area in Wasit governorate killed two citizens and wounded another.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
Baghdad